

THE CRISIS IN FORMOSA.

DETAILS OF THE CAPTURE OF KELUNG.

CANTONESE SOLDIERS FIRE ON DESERTERS.

HUMANITY OF THE JAPANESE.

A POWDER MAGAZINE EXPLOSION.

A GASTLY PICTURE.

FOREIGNERS INVITING THE JAPANESE TO ADVANCE.

(From our Special Correspondent.)

Taipei-fu, June 13.

It was thought that the Japanese would attack Kelung to-day, as Japanese ships had been seen cruising about outside the harbour in a very suspicious manner last evening. So none were surprised to hear about nine o'clock this morning the crackling of the rifles as the Japanese land force advanced. More war ships were seen off Palm Island, and at 11 o'clock, by taking a circular course, the vessels approached one at a time, and began the bombardment of the island. The land force had divided about 10 miles off and was now to be seen approaching in two columns, one to the North towards Castle fort near the Custom House, and one towards the encampment of Cantonese near and above the railroad tunnel. The fort, which is protected by three 7-inch Krupp and four Krupp field pieces, fell an easy capture, the Japanese troops marching in singing their national song. Palm Island fort, with five modern guns, one 12-inch Armstrong, two 10-inch and two 7-inch Krupp, made very little attempt at defence and the soldiers were soon fleeing out of the fort in great confusion. The soldiers in the East fort with two 7-inch Krupp, and one 7-inch Armstrong, and the West fort, with two 7-inch Krupp, evacuated even before they were in danger, scarcely firing a shot. Thus the Japanese were in complete possession of this stronghold in two hours and a half. The Cantonese occupying the camp just outside Kelung and over the railroad tunnel made the last fight, and as the deserting Chinese soldiers attempted running away by the road passing the encampment, and the only road then open, the Cantonese shot and cut them down, driving them back, and killing and wounding about fifty in the scrimmage. It is difficult at present to ascertain the exact Chinese loss, the wounded soldiers crawling off into hiding and under cover to die, but without doubt at least three hundred soldiers were dead before night.

It was a hard day for the Japanese who were dressed in the same heavy uniform as used during the cold campaign in the North, for notwithstanding heavy rain, it was close, warm, and sultry. The loss of life among them is reported as eleven dead and twice that number wounded; although the accidental explosion of dynamite killed and wounded sixteen. Practically Kelung was taken without opposition; with its 12,000 well-equipped Chinese troops, the natural strongholds and the modern forts; it was only the old story and "blong Olo custom" through and through. If the 4000 Japanese had not advanced so hastily, but given the Chinese time to escape, which they were endeavoring to do, the loss of life would have been extremely light.

The Japanese Red Cross corps took charge of wounded Chinese with their characteristic impartiality. One of the ex-governor's Chinese messengers, in talking to me about the battle, said the Japanese were looking after the Chinese wounded and he could not understand it, the only way he could account for it, was that after a while the Japanese intended to make soldiers out of them. This same man was loud in his condemnation of the Chinese.

Towards evening, wounded began coming in to Taipei-fu, and were provided with a space on the sidewalk in front of the Chinese hospital, the poor fellows receiving more attention from the flies than from the Chinese doctor, Chang. Some interesting cases illustrating the wonderful penetrating power of the small calibre bullets were seen: one Chinese had been shot through the back, through his right lung, and the bullet passed through his arm which must have been close to his body; the wound in his back was a small red spot the size of a lead pencil, on his chest a wound somewhat larger, while his arm contained a hole large enough to put one's finger through, and the bones were badly shattered. Another case was that of a man who had been shot near the elbow joint, the bullet following along in the arm, through the wrist, and striking the small bone of the hand, literally tearing it to pieces. The aperture at the elbow resembled a small round burn with the skin off. No opening could be seen and apparently the arm had not been injured.

As it was rumored about the city that the governor was intending to escape this evening, and as such a movement simply meant that the city was going to be handed over to the many thousand armed Chinese who without fear of consequences would probably make it disagreeable for all peaceful citizens, I was much interested in finding out if there was any truth in the rumor, so with a foreigner, I started about midnight for the city. Arriving at the wall, speaking to the guard and showing a dollar through the opening between the doors, we were promptly admitted, and passed through the comparatively quiet streets, the heavy rain and the pitch darkness dividing everyone not having business outside, under shelter. Reaching the yamen we saw a big guard outside the gate, ready to fire on any suspicious parties. After satisfying the guards

inside, that we were foreigners having business with the Governor, we were admitted through the gateway, first opened wide enough to let us through and then closed and the big heavy beam placed across and securely fastened. The guards were keeping very quiet and evidently anticipated trouble before the rain was over, messengers dripping with rain were arriving constantly, probably from Kelung. The apartments about the yamen were stripped of everything of value, and to all appearances it was intended to leave soon. We called on Tcheng Ki-long, but he had nothing to say about any intended departure of either the ex-Governor or himself; as we left accompanied by two petty Chinese officials, who wished to be allowed to go with us and pass as interpreters, they might escape from the city without attracting attention. On our way back we stopped at the railway station; the place was filled with soldiers who were watching very closely an engine with full steam up and the governor's special car attached. It was very evident it would not be safe for his Excellency to take any railroad excursions to-night.

Taipei-fu, June 13.

At 2 a.m. to-day the yellow tiger gathered in his long tail and lay down and died for lack of nourishment, and the Republic of Formosa ceased to exist. The President had made an unexpected exit, the Minister of Foreign Affairs had urgent business elsewhere, the eight Members of Parliament who had been drawing the princely salary of fifty cents per day had gone down river to Hobbs to escort their families to the mainland, and all there was left of the treasure was being fought for by a crowd of murderous fiends who were making pitiful hideous with their yells. Thus the ten-day Republic fast fading away.

The Governor had divided \$50,000 among his body-guard to allow him to leave the yamen, and when other soldiers called to demand their pay, they found the Governor's act at home. It did not take many moments to rent their rage on the yamen, which was fired; and every other building belonging to an official, was promptly broken into, and looting commenced. The constant crack of the rifle could be heard on all sides and everywhere while we watched the beautiful spectacular reproduction of "the last day of the Republic," we had a city full of frenzied Chinese who also required some watching.

No one seems to know exactly how or where the ex-governor got away; he may still possess a couple of hundred dollars. The German Marines saw some guards approach with two or three muskets and depart on a steam launch during the night; the ex-governor was probably one of them, but even if he is, it was not the German who got away, but the Chinese soldiers who were watching his every move.

The looting of the treasury led to considerable loss of life. Greedy soldiers, anxious to carry off as much as possible, ran away with dollars wrapped up in their clothes, dropping them along the way. It is a fact that in one of the streets near Banks, dollars could be found all along the way. It did not take long to carry away the few hundred thousand dollars, that the officials had been forced to leave, but even if he is, it was not the German who got away, but the Chinese soldiers who were watching his every move.

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This evening a fire was seen in the Powder Magazine and the fire was again kindled. I accompanied a number of foreigners on a tour of inspection. We found the fire spreading rapidly, and the structures with fearful rapidity; not a person could be seen, the only witnesses being a black Chinese woman, who was sitting very close to the powder magazine, with its eye crinkled up as if much interested. We tried to attract its attention, but it would not even turn its head, and when at the city gate I turned to take a final look, I could see the black body in the same place. Every minute kept evoking for moments expecting the magazine to explode, but finally retired and tried to forget all about powder magazines, rifle shots, looters etc.

Taipei-fu, June 13.

About 6 a.m. the powder magazine exploded, with one long drawn-out report, which shook the houses and turned everything out hurriedly into the streets.

The magazine is located perhaps a mile and a half from the city. Arriving on the scene about half an hour after the explosion, I found the ruins still smoking, while unexploded powder was lying about everywhere in big piles, with here and there a few boxes of boxes containing powder, dynamite, or fuses.

The paddy fields contained very evenly distributed fresh earth and debris from the buildings, and plastered with dirt or partially covered with the mud and mud of the Chinese, some so disfigured that the only semblance to human beings was the quivering flesh of a mangled trunk, a bearded limb or the hair attached to a head just protruding from the mud. I took a hasty picture, the wailing and crying of the wives and mothers adding to the fearfulness of the scene.

With characteristic apathy, the Chinese were standing by watching and laughing at the groans and doing absolutely nothing. I did not see a single Chinese in my short sojourn in China, and the brutal character of these fiends is almost beyond my comprehension. One more fortunate victim was sitting upright in the field, moaning and speaking to the passer-by to help him to get up. He was holding a piece of the debris and place him at least on the path way out of the sun. No; they stood around laughing, considering it apparently good fun.

Our attention was called to a wounded man who had been blown up and fallen in a cul-de-sac. He was standing with his feet in the paddy field, his body resting in nearly an upright position against the bank of the roadway, the road of which was four or five feet above the field, and his head with the nearly right angles and rested on the pathway with the face turned upwards towards

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